

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 22-26;

Please add new claim 32;

15. (Presently amended) A process for the oxidation of a starch, comprising
i. treating a root or tuber starch comprising at least 95 wt.% of amylopectin,
based on dry substance of the starch, with an alkali metal hypochlorite, at a pH between 6.5
and 8.5 to form an oxidized starch product, and
ii. after oxidation is complete, subjecting the oxidized starch product to an
alkaline treatment, wherein the alkaline treatment comprises keeping the oxidized starch
product at a temperature of 20-50°C and a pH higher than 10, for at least 15 minutes.

16. A process according to claim 15, wherein the alkaline treatment lasts at least at
least 30 minutes, preferably at least 60 minutes.

17. A process according to claim 15, wherein the alkaline treatment lasts at least at
least 60 minutes.

18. A process according to claim 15, wherein the alkaline treatment is performed at a
pH higher than 10.5.

19. A process according to claim 15, wherein the alkali metal hypochlorite is
sodium hypochlorite.

20. A process according to claim 15, wherein the oxidized starch product is treated with the alkali metal hypochlorite at a pH between 6.5 and 8.5.

21. (Presently amended) An oxidized starch obtained by a process comprising

i. treating a root or tuber starch comprising at least 95 wt.% of amylopectin, based on dry substance of the starch, with an alkali metal hypochlorite, at a pH of between 6.5 to 8.5, to form an oxidized starch product, and

ii. after oxidation is complete, subjecting the oxidized starch product to an alkaline treatment, wherein the alkaline treatment comprises keeping the oxidized starch product at a temperature of 20-50°C and a pH higher than 10, for at least 15 minutes.

22-26. ~~Cancelled~~

27. (Presently amended) A binder in paper coatings or surface sizings consisting essentially of an oxidized starch obtained by a process comprising

i. treating a root or tuber starch comprising at least 95 wt.% of amylopectin, based on dry substance of the starch, with an alkali metal hypochlorite, at a pH between 6.5 and 8.5, to form an oxidized starch product, and

ii. after oxidation is complete, subjecting the oxidized starch product to an alkaline treatment, wherein the alkaline treatment comprises keeping the oxidized starch product at a temperature of 20-50°C and a pH higher than 10, for at least 15 minutes.

28. (Presently amended) An adhesive consisting essentially of an oxidized starch

obtained by a process comprising

- i. treating a root or tuber starch comprising at least 95 wt.% of amylopectin, based on dry substance of the starch, with an alkali metal hypochlorite, at a pH between 6.5 and 8.5, to form an oxidized starch product, and
- ii. after oxidation is complete, subjecting the oxidized starch product to an alkaline treatment, wherein the alkaline treatment comprises keeping the oxidized starch product at a temperature of 20-50°C and a pH higher than 10, for at least 15 minutes.

29. (Presently amended) A protective colloid for stabilizing emulsions consisting essentially of an oxidized starch obtained by a process comprising

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- i. treating a root or tuber starch comprising at least 95 wt.% of amylopectin, based on dry substance of the starch, with an alkali metal hypochlorite, at a pH between 6.5 and 8.5, to form an oxidized starch product, and
- ii. after oxidation is complete, subjecting the oxidized starch product to an alkaline treatment, wherein the alkaline treatment comprises keeping the oxidized starch product at a temperature of 20-50°C and a pH higher than 10, for at least 15 minutes.

30. (Presently amended) A coating of glass fibers in warp yarn sizing consisting essentially of an oxidized starch obtained by a process comprising

- i. treating a root or tuber starch comprising at least 95 wt.% of amylopectin, based on dry substance of the starch, with an alkali metal hypochlorite, at a pH between 6.5 and 8.5, to form an oxidized starch product, and
- ii. after oxidation is complete, subjecting the oxidized starch product to an

alkaline treatment, wherein the alkaline treatment comprises keeping the oxidized starch product at a temperature of 20-50°C and a pH higher than 10, for at least 15 minutes.

31. (Presently amended) A food additive consisting essentially of an oxidized starch obtained by a process comprising

i. treating a root or tuber starch comprising at least 95 wt.% of amylopectin, based on dry substance of the starch, with an alkali metal hypochlorite, at a pH between 6.5 and 8.5, to form an oxidized starch product, and

ii. after oxidation is complete, subjecting the oxidized starch product to an alkaline treatment, wherein the alkaline treatment comprises keeping the oxidized starch product at a temperature of 20-50°C and a pH higher than 10, for at least 15 minutes.

32. (New) A process for the oxidation of a starch, comprising

i. treating a root or tuber starch comprising at least 95 wt.% of amylopectin, based on dry substance of the starch, with an alkali metal hypochlorite, at a pH between 6.5 and 8.5 to form an oxidized starch product, wherein the alkali metal hypochlorite is in an amount between 0.001 and 0.4 moles per mole of starch; and

ii. after oxidation is complete, subjecting the oxidized starch product to an alkaline treatment, wherein the alkaline treatment comprises keeping the oxidized starch product at a temperature of 20-50°C and a pH higher than 10, for at least 15 minutes.